

BOSTON RECORDER.

PUBLISHED BY NATHANIEL WILLIS, NO. 3, SUFFOLK BUILDINGS, CONGRESS-STREET, BOSTON.

Vol. II.

TUESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 11, 1817.

Price, \$3.00 in 6 months, or \$2.62 in advance.

MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The Twenty-third Report.

Continued from page 187.]

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After noticing the establishment of a similar institution at Amsterdam, the plans of the Netherland Society for the Dutch possessions in the East, and the increase of missionary zeal in America, the Report adds:—

It must afford delight to witness the growing zeal of the various societies of British Christians—the Moravian, the Baptist, the Wesleyan, and the Church Missionary Societies—all animated by the same spirit, and, in their several connexions, striving together for the faith of the Gospel. The world is a vast field, where in ten thousand laborers are wanted, and in which all may exert their utmost energies without giving the least occasion for envy or interference. Our combined efforts, however, with the blessing of God, will, we trust, in a few years, produce a wonderful change on the face of the moral world.

The directors hope that the statement now laid before you will afford satisfaction and pleasure; that it will appear to you that the Society is making a gradual progress in the great work of evangelizing the heathen; that the Islands of the Southern Ocean are waiting for the Law that went forth from Zion; that the light of Truth begins to penetrate the thick clouds of darkness, and to expose the abomination of idolatry and superstition in India and China; and that in Africa, especially, the glory of divine grace is rendered illustrious, in the conversion of multitudes of the sable sons of Ham, relieving them from the curse of Canaan, and making them partakers of the blessings of Abraham.

Now unto Him who has favored us with the rich privileges of his glorious Gospel, and who honors us as instruments of conveying them to others—to him be glory in all the churches confederated in the missionary cause! Amen, and Amen!

MISSIONARY INTELLIGENCE.

From the *Lon. Missionary Chronicle*, for Sept. 1817.

MALACCA.

An Account of Sabat.

At Penang, Mr. Milne met with Sabat, who after making a zealous profession of Christianity, had apostatized to Mahomedanism. We shall relate what happened, in Mr. Milne's own words.

'Jan. 26.—To-day met with Sabat, the Arabian, formerly a convert to Christianity, under the labors of the (late) Rev. Henry Martyn, and subsequently employed by the Bible Society in Bengal.

'To me his aspect seemed interesting in the highest degree, and his conversation discovered a very acute intellect. I had before heard of his conversion and labors, but knew nothing of his apostasy till he himself mentioned it. The causes which led to this unhallowed step, he endeavored to explain, but I could not well understand them. The facts of his apostasy, and of his having subsequently written a book professedly in favor of Mahomedanism, are, I suppose, generally known; nor did he himself conceal them. On putting some pointed questions to him, he said, 'I am unhappy! I have a mountain of burning sand on my head! When I go about, I know not what I am doing?'

'He says, 'What I did in renouncing Christianity, and writing my book, (which I call my *evil work*) was done in the heat and fury of passion, which is so natural to an Arab; and my chief wish now is, that God may spare me to refute that book, page by page. I know that it contains all that can be said in favor of Mahomedanism; and should I live to refute it, I shall do a greater service to the gospel than if it had not been written.'

'He spoke with rapture of the Rev. Mr. Martyn, and of several missionaries. 'Were every hair on my body,' said he, 'a tongue I could not fully tell that man's worth. I knew, and have been with, the Rev. Messrs. Cran and Desgranges at Vizagapatam. O what lovely men! I know the Baptists at Serampore also; they are worthy men; but I cannot receive their doctrine of adult baptism.'

'The case of this poor man much affected me, and Major M'Innes, who was also present. We afterwards visited and conversed with him. Before leaving Penang I wrote a letter to him, (he understands English,) exhorting him to speedy repentance and turning to the Lord. He wrote an answer to me, after my return to Malacca, which commences thus—

'Sabat, the corrupted, turned, and lost servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, the man of God, the Rev. W. Milne,' &c. Towards the close, he says, 'Though my body be not with the truth, yet my heart, soul, and understanding, are with it; nor shall they ever be turned away from it, by silver, gold, jewels, or the riches of the world, or any pleasures of science,' &c. &c.

'After a little time, he went over to Acheen, with the ex-king; for what purpose I know not. But on his way back to Penang, he unfortunately fell into the hands of the usurper, who seized all his property, and put him in irons. A few days ago I received a letter from him, from which it appears that he is confined day and night in the gun-room of a piratical brig, belonging to the usurper. During the night he is always in irons. He says, 'When brought before the usurper, he examined me, and

found no fault. He then asked me, 'What is thy religion?' Ans. 'My parents were Mahomedans.' Ques. 'But what is thy religion?' Ans. 'God knows.' 'Thy parents,' said the usurper, 'were Mahomedans; but thou art a *Serancee* (i. e. Christian) and must be killed.' Since that time he has been confined; nor does it appear that he denied his being still a Christian. The letter I instantly dispatched to Major M'Innes, entreating him to try to procure Sabat's release. May the Lord grant that in his captivity his backslidings may be healed.

'I have purposely enlarged on the case of poor Sabat, for the information of the religious public, who have not themselves had the opportunity of seeing him, or hearing much of him, since his departure from Calcutta. Is there not still reason to hope that God will do him good in his latter end? He is a man of great natural powers. The clear and evangelical comments which I heard him make on several passages and doctrines of Scripture, shewed that he had not been an inattentive learner, and reflect the greatest honor on the piety, sentiments, and care, of those worthy men under whose instruction he was placed.'

Mr. Milne has now two Chinese schools. The average attendance about fifty-five. He has introduced as much of the Lancasterian method as is practicable. Some of the children write on sand. Painted boards are also used. They all read Mr. Morrison's Chinese catechism, and commit it to memory. Mr. M. has been assisted in the support of the schools by liberal subscriptions from J. H. Harrington, Esq. and several other gentlemen in Bengal.

In Siam, there are said to be 20,000 Chinese. What a noble field for a missionary, for Bibles and Tracts!

AMBOYNA.

We mentioned, in a former number, the great eagerness of the people in the islands which Mr. Kam visited, to hear the word of God; this will be further evinced by the following extract (translated from the Malay) of a letter, sent by the chief people of the Negery, called *Aboruw*.

'To our Minister, the Rev. Joseph Kam, who has obtained much wisdom and honor, who is now to preach the word of God in the island of *Saparua*;

Honorable Sir, our Minister. The humble request of us, your humble servants, as well the *Regent*, or head of this Negery, as the master with all the people of *Aboruw*, men and women, is to pray you, as if it were at your feet, that you will pity us, and come over to us, at any time which will be convenient to you, as you return from the Negery *Porto*, if it be but for one hour.

Your epistles of consolation* have been very precious to us; they have broken the hearts of us, your sinful servants, who have been involved in great darkness; but we have been constrained to believe in the truth of your consolations, and have been so far enlightened, that we have cast away and entirely removed all kind of idols, which are very evil. (15 Nov. 1816.)

(Signed by all the principal people.)

* By the word *consolation* (*panghiboran*) they mean frequently the matter of a sermon, or letter. Mr. Kam had sent them written sermons; he will soon be enabled to print tracts for their use.

MALTA.

A letter from Mr. Lowndes, dated June 10, 1817, was lately received. He is permitted to preach in his own house, which will accommodate about 100 people. He is now applying diligently to the modern Greek language in Malta, it not being expedient that he should yet proceed to the Ionian Islands.

A Bible Society has been formed in Malta, by the exertions of H. Drummond, Esq. Dr. Naudie, the Rev. Mr. Jowett, and the Rev. Mr. Lowndes, are appointed Secretaries. We augur much good, by the blessing of God, from this institution; for Malta is most advantageously situated for the purpose of dispersing the Scriptures through all the countries bordering on the Mediterranean.

Mr. Drummond, it appears, has spent several months at *Naples*, and has there printed *Martin's Bible*, in Italian, and has formed a Bible Society there, even there. In this we rejoice, and heartily pray for its continuance and success. Who can tell but we may enjoy the satisfaction of seeing a Bible Society established in Rome itself? Mr. Drummond has also printed at Naples, several religious tracts, in Italian, which are widely dispersed. Mr. Lowndes has sent some of them to Zante, together with extracts from the reports of the British and Foreign Bible Society, printed in Italian and English. Thus we may hope to see Bible Societies formed in the Ionian Islands, and perhaps in Greece.

Catholic Persecution.

In a former letter, (dated 17 March last,) he mentions a young man (a native of England) who called upon him requesting a Bible. He had spent nine of his youthful years in the West-Indies; after which he was desirous of visiting Malta, where his sister had resided about 15 years. Soon after his arrival, he caught the plague, (which then raged in Malta,) and was in expectation of death. His sister, who had become a Catholic, introduced a priest to

him, who baptized him a Catholic. His health, however, was restored; after which, upon reading the Scriptures, which he examined chiefly for the purpose of confirming his Popish principles, he began to perceive their falsehood, and gained further light by conversing with Mr. Lowndes. He told his confessor that he had a Bible; but he was strictly charged not to read it. He was determined, however, to persevere; and the consequence has been, his renouncing Popery, and attending worship constantly with Mr. L. and his friends.

He suffers much in his worldly circumstances, by this change of his profession. He endures patiently the persecution of his (former) father confessor and other priests, of his wife, and her grandmother who lives with them, and, most of all, from his sister, who, coming to his house to reproach him, struck him violently on his face; and finding that it was his Bible which had effected the change, came to the house next day, when he was from home, took away his Bible and burnt it. He procured another however from Mr. Lowndes, and continues strongly attached to the Protestant congregation.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

Our readers will be pleased to learn that the Committee of this institution have determined to publish a sheet of extracts of their correspondence in the last week of every month. The following extract from their *Address to Auxiliary Societies*, will give a view of their plan:—

It appears to the Committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society to have become highly expedient, that a plan should be adopted for transmitting to the various Societies in connexion with the Parent Institution, more frequent communications than have heretofore been usual of the interesting intelligence from time to time received, relative to the progress of the great work in which their efforts are united. The Committee regard it, indeed, little less than an act of duty, to impart to the friends of the cause, in every part of the empire, a portion of those moral treasures which are continually flowing in from all quarters of the world; and to admit them to share, with as little delay as possible, in the enjoyment of those fruits, to the production of which their local exertions have so materially contributed.

But the Committee, in resorting to this plan, have an object beyond that of conveying satisfaction and delight. They are deeply sensible of the beneficial influence produced upon their own minds, by the communications from distant lands read to them at their periodical meetings, both in exciting their gratitude, and stimulating their exertions; and they are anxious to establish such means of intercourse as may enable them to extend, as widely as possible, these salutary impressions. Experience has taught them to believe, that, if extracts from the most interesting parts of the Society's Correspondence were read in the meetings of the local Committees, and distributed among the members, for the information of others, it would tend greatly to enliven the spirit of those meetings, and to invigorate and expand the general zeal.

Under this conviction, the committee have determined to issue, in the last week of every month, a sheet of brief extracts from their articles of Correspondence, with a view to their being read at the meetings of the Committees of the different Auxiliary and Branch Societies, and Bible Associations, and distributed among their Officers, Members of Committee, and gratuitous Collectors.

The Committee anticipate much good from this measure, if their views are followed up by their friends in the country; and they trust they may reckon upon a diligent and punctual co-operation from the Auxiliary Societies, in giving it effect in the manner suggested.

From the *Third Report of the Bombay Auxiliary Bible Society*, Sept. 18, 1816.

The supplies of English Bibles and Testaments which the Committee have received, both from London and Calcutta, have enabled them to furnish, to some extent, the immediate demands of the Europeans.

The want of the Scriptures among the soldiers and the poorer British inhabitants under this government, is probably greater than has been suspected; seldom, perhaps, does a copy of the Bible accompany the British soldier amidst the hurry of embarkation from his native shores; and, after his arrival in this foreign land, where its holy precepts should be more peculiarly presented, to counteract the gross vices and idolatry by which he is surrounded, an opportunity has seldom been afforded him of perusing it.

From the coasts of Malabar, the Bombay Bible Society has endeavored to extend its influence to the distant shores of the Persian Gulf, and they have there distributed several Arabic Bibles, partly through the means of the British Resident at Bussorah.

A connexion seems thus to be immediately formed with the Parent Society in London; who, by the numerous societies in Russia and Germany, in the Crimea,

and even Georgia, by their Correspondence at Constantinople, in parts of Asia Minor, and lastly with the British Resident at Bagdad, have established a connexion throughout the vast continent of Europe and Asia, from the banks of the Thames to the regions of the Ganges.

The copies of the Syriac Gospels forwarded to the Syrian Christians in Travancore, have proved a most acceptable gift to them. Three copies were presented to the Bishop, Mar Dionysius, and the clergy with him at Kotyam; and three were given to the British Resident, Colonel Munro, who has established at Kotyam a college for the education of the Catechans. The type and character of these Gospels are considered by them to be executed in the best manner; and the Bishop and Catechans, (or clergy,) expressed the most earnest desire to receive the whole of the Old and New Testament printed in the same manner: they have very few copies of the Scriptures among them.

From the *Hon. Sir Alexander Johnston*, Colombo, Sept. 25, 1816.

The assistance which the Bible Society in England has given the friends of Christianity in this island, has enabled the latter, as I have frequently written to you, to circulate the Scriptures among the people of the country in a manner which was never done before; and I do attribute the unanimity with which all classes of nations have resolved to put an end to domestic slavery, to the effect which has been produced upon their minds and upon their feelings by those doctrines which are contained in the Scriptures, and which, from their simplicity, are intelligible by, and applicable to, every description of the human race, whether European or Asiatic.

From the *Rev. J. Kam, Amboyna*, Dec. 31, 1816.

Of the quantity of the Holy Scriptures which we had expected from Calcutta, only 400 copies of the Malay New Testament have been received, a small supply for upwards of 30,000 poor people, utterly destitute of the means of religious instruction: and it is a truth, that their desire to be in possession of the word of God is very great. As an instance of this, a Malay Bible was purchased here last month at a public sale, for forty-one Spanish dollars, upwards of 100 sterling.

N. B. The British and Foreign Bible Society is preparing an edition of 5000 copies of the Malay Bible, and 10,000 extra New Testaments, for the use of the Moluccas. It should also be observed, that the Bible Society at Amboyna has already remitted to the Parent Institution nearly 10000.

From His Majesty, the King of Prussia, to the Prussian Central Bible Society in Berlin, March 6, 1816.

The Brief View which on the 4th of this month you laid before me, of the result of your endeavors to promote the diffusion of the Holy Scriptures, has been highly gratifying to me, on account of the religious spirit with which this beneficial undertaking has been conducted and carried on, even in the most unfavorable times. Convinced that in it you will find your reward, and encouragement to proceed in your labors, nothing remains for me but hereby to assure you of my acknowledgement of it.

(Signed) FREDERICK WILLIAM.

From the *Rev. J. Paterson, Gothenberg*, July 6, 1817.

The Gothenberg Juvenile Society has increased to 640 members, and has this year already raised 1064 rix dollars, banco. The Bibles and Testaments I brought for them, in various languages, for distribution among foreigners, were a welcome present. They see many pleasing effects of their labors. The Finnish New Testaments which they distributed some time ago among the soldiers of that nation in garrison, have produced much good. They are the only means of instruction which these poor men enjoy, and they peruse them diligently. Of this the following anecdote will afford a proof: the President of the Juvenile Society had occasion, as officiating chaplain for the garrison, to examine the Finnish soldiers previously to their receiving the communion. On approaching one of them, the officer said, 'As to that fellow, it is vain to ask him any thing; he cannot read.' But on inquiry, it was found that he could read, and read well. Astonished at this discovery, the officer demanded to know how he had acquired this talent all at once; when it appeared, that the receipt of a New Testament had inspired him with so strong a desire to know what it contained, that he set about learning to read; a task which he accomplished in the course of two months.

BENEFIT OF A TRACT.

Extract from the *Plymouth Dock Auxiliary Tract Society*, Dec. 19, 1816.

The tract entitled *The Dairyman's Daughter* happened to fall into the hands of a woman of notoriously wicked character; the title attracted her notice, and invited her perusal. She was frequently tempted to cast it from her, but

"God moves in a mysterious way,
His wonders to perform."
She had read only three pages, when the scales dropt from her eyes, and the veil was rent from her heart; she was constrained to cry aloud for the disquietude of her soul; she went on her way mourning for several weeks: but that God, who has promised to heal the broken hearted, burst

